AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for ultrasonic testing of an object, wherein at at least one test moment an ultrasonic test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~, while after a particular verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) measured from said test moment, an ultrasonic verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~, a possible echo of said test signal (S1, S2) being received from said object ~~(2)~~ at a particular first measuring moment, the possible echo being accepted as being the echo (E1, E2) of said test signal (S1, S2) only when an echo (E1', E2') of the verification signal (S1', S2') is received at a particular second measuring moment.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for ultrasonic testing of an object, wherein at at least one test moment an ultrasonic verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~ while after a particular verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) measured from said test moment, an ultrasonic test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~, a possible echo of said test signal (S1, S2) being received from said object ~~(2)~~ at a particular second measuring moment, the possible echo being accepted as being the echo (E1, E2) of said test signal (S1, S2) only when an echo (E1', E2') of the verification signal (S1', S2') is received at a particular first measuring moment.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the possible echo of said test signal is accepted as being the echo (E1, E2) of that test signal (S1, S2) only when

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the difference between the first and the second measuring moment is substantially equal to said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2).

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1, wherein said test signal (S1, S2) and each associated verification signal (S1', S2') are equal to each other and have in particular the same signal duration, the same amplitude and the same frequency spectrum.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1, wherein said test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~ at a first position, while said verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~ at a second position adjacent said first position.

6. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 5, wherein the distance between the first and second position is smaller than approximately 1 mm, is in particular approximately 0.5 mm or less, more in particular approximately 0.1 mm or less.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1, wherein said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) is smaller than approximately 100 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 50 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 20 µs.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1, wherein successively a number of test signals (S1, S2, S3, S4) are transmitted into the object ~~(2)~~, in particular with intermediate test periods (T) which are greater

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than said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2), while after and/or prior to at least one of said test signals, at least one associated verification signal (S1', S2', S4', S4'') is transmitted into the object.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus, evidently intended and designed for carrying out a method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, during use, the apparatus is moved along the object ~~(2)~~ at a particular measuring velocity (V), while the measuring velocity (V) is in particular greater than approximately 10 m/s and more in particular greater than approximately 20 m/s.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 9~~ or 10~~, provided with a control, in particular computer means, which control is designed for accepting an echo received at a particular measuring moment as being an echo (E1, E2) of the test signal (S1, S2) only when an echo (E1', E2') of the verification signal (S1', S2') is received at a different measuring moment, and in particular when the difference between the one and other measuring moment is substantially equal to said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2).

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The use of an apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 9~~ - 11~~, in particular for testing objects, elements, rails, vehicle parts, vessel parts and/or airplane parts and the like for defects.

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13. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein the possible echo of said test signal is accepted as being the echo (E1, E2) of that test signal (S1, S2) only when the difference between the first and the second measuring moment is substantially equal to said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2).

14. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein said test signal (S1, S2) and each associated verification signal (S1', S2') are equal to each other and have in particular the same signal duration, the same amplitude and the same frequency spectrum.

15. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein said test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object at a first position, while said verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object at a second position adjacent said first position.

16. (NEW) A method according to claim 15, wherein the distance between the first and second position is smaller than approximately 1 mm, is in particular approximately 0.5 mm or less, more in particular approximately 0.1 mm or less.

17. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) is smaller than approximately 100 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 50 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 20 µs.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein successively a number of test signals (S1, S2, S3, S4) are transmitted into

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the object, in particular with intermediate test periods (T) which are greater than said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2), while after and/or prior to at least one of said test signals, at least one associated verification signal (S1', S2', S4', S4'') is transmitted into the object.

19. (NEW) A method according to claim 3, wherein:

said test signal (S1, S2) and each associated verification signal (S1', S2') are equal to each other and have in particular the same signal duration, the same amplitude and the same frequency spectrum;

said test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object at a first position, while said verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object at a second position adjacent said first position;

the distance between the first and second position is smaller than approximately 1 mm, is in particular approximately 0.5 mm or less, more in particular approximately 0.1 mm or less;

said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) is smaller than approximately 100 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 50 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 20 µs;

successively a number of test signals (S1, S2, S3, S4) are transmitted into the object, in particular with intermediate test periods (T) which are greater than said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2), while after and/or prior to at least one of said test signals, at least one associated verification signal (S1', S2', S4', S4'') is transmitted into the object.

20. (NEW) A method according to claim 13, wherein:

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said test signal (S1, S2) and each associated verification signal (S1', S2') are equal to each other and have in particular the same signal duration, the same amplitude and the same frequency spectrum;

said test signal (S1, S2) is transmitted into the object at a first position, while said verification signal (S1', S2') is transmitted into the object at a second position adjacent said first position;

the distance between the first and second position is smaller than approximately 1 mm, is in particular approximately 0.5 mm or less, more in particular approximately 0.1 mm or less;

said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2) is smaller than approximately 100 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 50 µs, more in particular smaller than approximately 20 µs;

successively a number of test signals (S1, S2, S3, S4) are transmitted into the object, in particular with intermediate test periods (T) which are greater than said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2), while after and/or prior to at least one of said test signals, at least one associated verification signal (S1', S2', S4', S4'') is transmitted into the object.

21. (NEW) An apparatus, evidently intended and designed for carrying out a method according to claim 2.

22. (NEW) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein, during use, the apparatus is moved along the object at a particular measuring velocity (V), while the measuring velocity (V) is in particular greater than approximately 10 m/s and more in particular greater than approximately 20 m/s.

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23. (NEW) An apparatus according to claim 21, provided with a control, in particular computer means, which control is designed for accepting an echo received at a particular measuring moment as being an echo (E1, E2) of the test signal (S1, S2) only when an echo (E1', E2') of the verification signal (S1', S2') is received at a different measuring moment, and in particular when the difference between the one and other measuring moment is substantially equal to said verification period (Δt_1, Δt_2).

24. (NEW) The use of an apparatus according to claim 21, in particular for testing objects, elements, rails, vehicle parts, vessel parts and/or airplane parts and the like for defects.

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